



The Iguana



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Photo by Spc. Sarah Maxwell

Mourning our loss ...

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and Word Trade Center, members of Joint Task Force-Bravo came together in grief at a memorial service at the base theater Sept. 13.

Crew chiefs key to 1-228th operational success

By 1st Lt. Richard Komurek
Public Affairs

What happens when a remote military location, equipped with a dozen of the Army's oldest UH-60 aircraft, is tasked with one of the Army's busiest schedules of real-world missions?

The result is an environment where constant dedication and vigilance is required to ensure day-to-day operations are met with success. Welcome to the world of the crew chief.

Before, during and after flights, crew chiefs are busy with a seemingly endless amount of tasks and checklists to perform. Add to this the dynamics of a remote base like Soto Cano and one can begin to see why being a crew chief here is often described as a very unique and challenging experience.

Ask any Black Hawk crew chief about Soto Cano and you'll likely be told it's definitely not like a normal stateside assignment.

For many, being here is the assignment of a lifetime that offers opportunities not found at home.

"Here we do a lot of varied missions that you don't get to do at Fort Hood,"

said Crew Chief Sgt. Henry Juarez, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. "You're not as tactical there as you are here ... being here is a real life mission. I feel good about myself and about being here, it makes me appreciate being in the Army."

Juarez also said he likes Soto Cano for the training that he's received here. In the four months since his arrival he's had the opportunity to gain mountain qualification and dunker heeds water survival training, two types of specialized training not easily acquired back at his former station.

Though full of opportunity, Soto Cano also presents crew chiefs with hardship as well.

Behind the scenes, the crew chiefs of Company A must work long hours and frequently work weekends to keep their aging 1980's Black Hawks operating. It's a constant battle that is invisible to most who work away from the flightline.

Among those at the front lines of this battle is Cpl. Jason Young, a flight instructor and lead crew chief for Company A.

After 14 months at Soto Cano, he

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Photo by 1st Lt. Richard Komurek

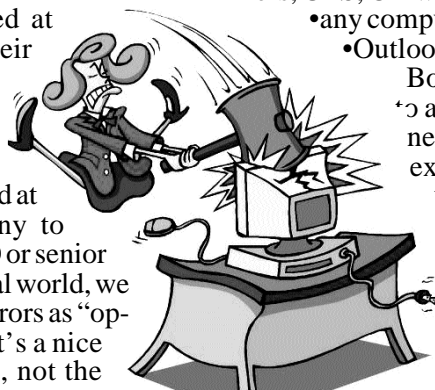
Crew Chief Sgt. Henry Juarez inspects the rotor blades of a UH-60 Black Hawk during a stop at the San Pedro Sula airport.

Commanders Corner

Taking care of computer problems easy

By Capt. Pam Alexander
Communications

A lot of people I've encountered at Joint Task Force-Bravo don't like their computers for one reason or another. Usually the reason is because the computer does not seem to cooperate with the user, and the user gets mad at the computer. Getting mad at an inanimate object is pretty funny to watch, especially to see a senior NCO or senior officer cursing at it. In the Army signal world, we classify a lot of simple, correctable errors as "operator head space and timing." That's a nice way of saying the user screwed up, not the computer.



There's no need to yell and curse at your computer because there are a lot of smart people at JTF-Bravo to help you if you have computer problems. We do a lot of troubleshooting in communications, so we may be able to answer your question and if not, we will direct you to someone who can help you.

If you have any of the following problems, then contact the Harris LAN Office (Bldg A-52) at ext. 5109:

- Can't access Outlook e-mail account
- Password not letting you log on or you're locked out
- Can't access shared drives (G and H)
- E-mail account is over the limit
- Problem with mapping network printers

If you have any of the following problems, contact Dyncorp IMD (Bldg B-01) at ext. 4610 and open a trou-

ble ticket. A technician will come out to your office and assess the problem and if possible, fix it on the spot.

- hardware problems with computers, printers, scanners, UPS, CD writers, or zip drives
- any computer software problems
- Outlook "pst" files

Both Harris and Dyncorp IMD are happy to assist you with your problems. If you need further assistance, you can call J6 at ext. 4167. We get lots of calls at J6 that turn out to be "operator head space and timing," but we don't mind assisting you if it saves some time for our contractors to deal with the tougher problems. The next time you get mad at your computer, and it's really the computer's fault (this does happen from time to time), call one of our experts before you go about trying to fix it yourself.

Lastly, here are a few tips - things to remember with computer security here at JTF-Bravo:

- Always lock your workstation when you leave it. On Windows NT, hit "Ctrl" "Alt" and "Delete" to prompt the menu that gives you the option to lock your workstation. If you don't have NT, set up your screen-saver to enable after one or two minutes of inactivity.
- Shut down your computer at the end of the duty day and turn off your printer and monitor.
- Be on the lookout for e-mails with viruses. If you don't recognize the source and suspect it to have a virus, delete it immediately and delete from deleted messages, too. Report it to Dyncorp IMD immediately. (Norton Anti-Virus updates computers on the LAN from the server.)

The Iguana

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Chaplain's Corner

Turning to scripture helps make sense of tragic terrorism attacks

By Chaplain (Capt.) Earl Vanderhoff
JTF-Bravo Chaplain

Human suffering is a difficult and perplexing issue. If we limit our investigations and explanations to the wisdom and philosophy of the world, we are likely to surrender to desperation and despair. But if we consider human suffering in the biblical context of how God loves us and cares for us, we see new possibilities. The Biblical example of Job teaches us to look for the presence of God in our lives. Job undergoes a conversation in his heart: from complaining about what he has lost to concentrating on what he is - a son of God. In the realization of his walk with God he experiences the meaning of his existence; he discovers the meaning of his life. God alone is good. Everything we have is a gift. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. When we realize this, then we experience the resolution of peace and trust and confidence in the future with God. We praise God for the blessings we enjoy as Americans. We are the greatest and most powerful nation on earth. We believe that each human being is created in the image of God therefore we view life as sacred. We highly value the

life of every human being. As a nation, we will be strong; we will unify and overcome.

Human suffering was not God's original intent. The presence of suffering in our world is the direct result of sin, of living in a fallen world; however, we must remember that we are creatures - God alone is the Creator - and we are called upon to live our lives within the limits appointed by God. We highly value the life God has given us, but we dare not value that life or any part of it higher than God himself. Thus suffering, even death, is not the greatest evil that can befall us. The greatest evil is disobedience to and disbelief in God - refusing to live within our creaturely limits. We must each resolve to seek for God and commit to live in submission to Jesus Christ as our savior and Lord.

When the people of the Exodus were wandering in the wilderness, they often complained that God was far from them. Yet God was as close to them as their next breath. And God constantly reassured them of this nearness. The Exodus people eventually did find a new place of freedom and peace.

The same is true for us. Through it all, God is keeping vigil over us just as God did with the Exodus community in the wilderness. It is the kind of vigil that a parent keeps with an ailing child or the night watch

one keeps while waiting for a loved one to come home.

PROV 18: 10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

Please take time to seek for God in your life. Confess your sin to him and ask him to show you the truth of salvation in Jesus Christ. Only in trust and faith will we rest in the loving care of our sovereign God. No matter what the final outcome of this tragedy God will be your strength. Only in faith can we seek God for comfort and consolation for those who are grieving the death of loved ones. The scripture tells us that there is only one mediator between God and men, the Lord Jesus Christ. Only faith in Christ gives us assurance of eternity after death in heaven. Each one of us must repent of our sin and seek for God. We can be assured that God understands and knows our grief. As the prophet Isaiah tells us.

ISA 53: 3

He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4

Surely He has borne our griefs

See Chaplain, Page 3

Base security heightens after attacks; everyone has to take role in force protection

By 1st. Lt. Emily Dierhka
Force Protection

In light of the worst act of terrorism in American history, we must heed the wake-up call and acknowledge the profound effect the attack against the United States of America will have on our collective psyche for years to come.

It is important to learn from such atrocities to prevent them from happening again.

As with the Khobar Towers incident, intelligence reports did not reveal a threat. We were completely taken by surprise. That's where our vulnerability lies.

We forget and settle into complacency and our daily routines. We get so wrapped up in our work and lives that we don't give the probability of such atrocities a second thought.

The targets struck represented the financial and military strongholds of our nation.

One can speculate that the terrorists wanted to demonstrate their power to destroy two of the greatest entities of our nation with the intent of crippling us for an unseen period of time. However, our nation became stronger on Sept. 12; people of all races, religions and beliefs united to aid the victims and to show our resolve against a common enemy.

We Americans are united with a resolve that will allow us to endure any suffering, any pain, to go to the lengths necessary in the pursuit of justice. Freedom is not free.

As demonstrated, terrorists are capable of striking anywhere at anytime. The men in charge of terrorist organi-

zations in America are not stupid, uneducated people; they are highly skilled and very good at what they do. Our vulnerability lies in their capability and our complacency.

It is our responsibility to remain vigilant and make ourselves less of a target at work, at home and when on the move.

You may think that you are not vulnerable because you are thousands of miles away from New York and Washington, D.C.

Think again. You are vulnerable just by being an American.

Locally our greatest threat is crime. Protect yourself by not wearing expensive jewelry or displaying large amounts of money off base.

Don't attract attention to yourself or your group when drinking and hanging out with your friends.

Do not travel alone, especially at night.

On a greater scope, our greatest vulnerability lies when traveling for pleasure, TDY or PCS.

- Keep aware of your surroundings while driving. Notice the cars and people around you.

- Aim to travel as inconspicuously as possible. Travel on a tourist passport; keep documents that aren't needed that may identify you as a service member packed away in luggage or hidden in carry-on baggage.

- Obtain a window seat near an exit. In the event of a skyjacking, terrorists usually focus their hostilities on aisle passengers.

Often times, we find ourselves in foreign nations where we'll stick-out no matter what we do.

However, you can make yourself less obvious by not wearing clothing

with American logos, our flag, or anything that shows an affiliation with the military.

Use civilian luggage that blends in as opposed to the green duffle bags that are government issue.

Do not tell people that you are in the military.

If possible, travel with someone; do not wander off into secluded areas. Learn a few key phrases of the native language to help you out ... just in case.

When staying in a hotel, do not take a ground floor room. Stay on the 2nd through 5th floors. Get a room on the inside of the hotel, away from the street.

Keep your curtains closed and the closet and shower curtains open to deny anyone a place to hide from you. Answer the phone with a simple "Hello."

Do not give your rank and name. Do not leave documents in your room identifying who you are and what you do.

Mail letters and postcards yourself (don't use front desk). Be careful what you say on the phone and in casual conversation. You never know who is listening.

Just being cognizant of your surroundings and taking these steps may prevent you and your family from becoming a target.

If you see anything out of the ordinary report the suspicious activity to the Joint Security Force at ext. 4170.

Remember, the responsibility lies upon each of us to do our part to protect our lives and those of our great nation.

One final thought: The experts all agree; it's not a matter of "if" the United States will be hit with another act of terrorism, it's a matter of when.

Chiefs

(Continued from Page 1)

knows all too well the difficulties that the Black Hawk crew chiefs face each and every day.

"We are one of the only units doing real world missions on a constant basis," said Young. "I've done more mission flying in 14 months here than I did in three years at Fort Campbell."

Frequent missions with aging aircraft means a lot of work for the crew chiefs, who are responsible for everything from hydraulic systems to rotor blades and landing gear.

"The pilot flies and our job is to do everything else. We work long days, 12 hours at least," said Young. "Sometimes it's frustrating to come in on weekends, but it's a part of our job."

And being in a remote location only makes that job even harder. Sometimes identifying a maintenance problem is easy but fixing it is another story.

"We have a low priority for parts and have to wait a long time. It can be frustrating to wait for parts when you know it's a simple fix," Young said.

Though invisible to some, the efforts of crew chiefs do not go unnoticed and are well appreciated by commanders, pilots and others who work with aircraft. They realize the work of crew chiefs is absolutely essential to U.S. aviation operations in Central America.

"The crew chiefs of the 1-228th are the overworked, underpaid, under appreciated workhorses of the battalion. During their one-year tour, most crew chiefs can expect to work 20 to 40 weekends; get home after the PX, post office, DFAC and pool close; miss the start of most movies at the post theater; and can expect to deploy to every country in the JOA (joint operations area) ... as well as one or two in South America or the Caribbean," said Maj. James Walton, 1-228th deputy commander. "Their attention to detail, duty performance and ability learn from others is what keeps all of us alive to fly another day."

At Soto Cano, one thing is for sure; there's rarely a dull moment for the crew chiefs and other members of the 1-228th. Between flights for training like SPIES, rappelling and over water training to the missions of Central Skies, New Horizons and humanitarian relief, it's a rare day that one of their aircraft is not flying somewhere in the area of operations.

For many crew chiefs flying is not only the end result but it is often the motivating factor behind their continued success.

The ability to fly frequently is also one of the reasons that the Soto Cano experience typically rates high with crew chiefs, many of whom wouldn't get nearly as many hours riding the skies back at their home unit.

"Flying is the fun part of the job, it gets you out of the office," said Young. "I extended for six months because I like it down here. I like being able to do real missions."

Chaplain

(Continued from Page 2)

And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
6 All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Jesus Christ was sent by the Father into this world to save us from our sins and to demonstrate God's love for us. He will meet you in your time of need. As the Apostle Paul teaches us to find comfort in faith.

1 THESS 4: 13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest

you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Faith in Jesus Christ can and will give you comfort! As we together seek for God to strengthen our country and guide, direct and grant wisdom to our president and commanders let us speak to each other about our faith and find comfort. Think often on God's promise ... "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

Airmen across nation hear call to aid in disaster relief

By Air Force Capt. Jim Fuchs
AFPN

NEW YORK (AFPN, Sept. 19, 2001) — Senior Airman Edward Blunnie was watching television in his Bayridge, Brooklyn home when “breaking news” cut in to tell him an aircraft had crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center.

The south tower collision, minutes later, served as a call to action. Blunnie called 14 other local airmen who all took a leave of absence from their civilian jobs and arrived at ground zero several hours later.

“I just couldn’t sit at home and just watch this happen,” said Blunnie, a rapid runway repair specialist with 514th Civil Engineer Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. “There are a bunch of us, Brooklyn recruiters, two guys from (Stewart International Airport, Air National Guard), other guys from my unit, that decided we needed to get together and do what we can to help the situation.”

Arriving at “ground zero,” Blunnie quickly discovered that he and his contingent were not alone. Among the hundreds of civilian rescue workers at the crime scene, Blunnie was surprised to see a vast contingent of military people doing whatever they could to aid in the recovery operations.

“It was great to see so many people who felt that morally this is the right thing to do,” Blunnie said.

“There’s not a lot of Air Force guys in the New York City area. I don’t know where they came from but they’re here to help so that’s all that matters.”

Among those Blunnie encountered was Staff Sgt. Carlos Aponte, a member of the 514th Communications Squadron at McGuire. Although they are from the same Reserve unit, the two first met while “chain-hauling” rubble away from the crash site. Chain-hauling is the process by which workers line up and form an assembly line to quickly move rubble or necessary supplies.

“It’s like a family out here,” Aponte said. “I’ve always felt that way about the 514th, but out here we have a lot of people who don’t want any credit, they just want to help.”

Aponte is an emergency medical technician who works for Medicaid in Patterson, N.J. He arrived at the site two days after the attacks, and intends to work in whatever capacity he is needed until the recovery operation is ended.

“I couldn’t just sit home and watch TV,” he said.

“I’ll take every vacation day I have from work if that’s what it takes.”

Using vacation time or leave is how many of the military people are able to stay at the World Trade Center site and follow the calling that brought them here.

Capt. Brent Unger, an instructor with the 440th Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Detachment in Columbia, Mo., was on leave from his University of

Missouri post when he received news of the terrorist attacks.

He quickly changed his leave paperwork and drove 12 hours from Columbia to New York City. He was immediately put to work.

“Just before I got there rescue workers were down in the hole digging — and they found someone alive,” Unger said. “Since then, I’ve been down deep, digging away hoping we find more.”

Unger, an intelligence officer by trade, was planning to leave the Air Force in a couple of months. As a result of this experience, he is now thinking of coming back to be a part of any military response that may ensue as a result of the terrorist attacks.

Unger, like the other Air Force people out here, has no imminent plans to leave. Many of the volunteers have been working 18-hour days and sleeping in their cars, just to stay close to the operation.

From obvious pieces of airplane wreckage, to documents marked by what floor they came from, the volunteers are constantly being reminded of how real and how recent this tragedy is. Yet despite all of these emotional reminders, they press on with little or no sleep while holding on to a strong sense of hope.

“We’re not heroes, we’re just Americans trying to help other Americans,” Blunnie said. “Until everyone is accounted for, we’re going to work night and day to find our countrymen.”

Airmen apply military skills to terrorist attack rescue efforts

By Air Force Capt. Lars Anderson
AFPN

NEW YORK (AFPN, Sept. 14, 2001) — The first thing that hits people is the intense acrid smell, and smoke still billowing from fires more than two days after the collapse of the World Trade Center. Among the thousands of rescue and recovery workers are more than 100 airmen, reservists and guardsmen wearing state and city police and fire fighting uniforms.

“It’s horrible,” said Tech. Sgt. Nick Marchisello, a fireman with the 514th Civil Engineering Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J. “It’s like walking into hell.”

Marchisello, a 17-year veteran, is in New York with the Clifton Fire Department from New Jersey. His current job is to go and look for survivors.

Search and rescue dogs from the Bergen County Sheriff’s Department have gone ahead of the firefighters in search of survivors. It will be the job of Marchisello and his fellow team members to rescue them, should the dogs discover anyone. The work is dangerous work with fires still burning, and the ground and debris are very unstable.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Latona, a member of the 105th Airlift Wing at Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, N.Y., is also a firefighter with Clifton. Latona relates what he sees now to his time on active duty in the Air Force when he served in Africa.

“I served in Rwanda,” he said.

“You’re expected to see it there. Going in there, you’re expecting to see death and devastation, but to be here like this is just ...,” Latona did not finish the sentence, staring in disbelief at the wreckage before him.

“I’ve looked at this skyline my whole life,” Latona said, referring to the towering 110-story twin towers. “They were there and now they’re gone.”

His service in the Air Force has helped him prepare for the tasking mission facing him now.

Marchisello could not agree more.

“The (Air Force) fire program expects and encourages you to constantly upgrade and continue your education about the firefighting profession,” Marchisello said. “People come to you because of the excellent training that you have received and are getting because you are in the military. What I learn (at the World Trade Center) I can use in my job with the Reserves and vice versa.”

But, he said, nothing can fully prepare a firefighter for what is encountered during an actual disaster.

“Seeing this destruction is unbelievable,” Marchisello said. “I can only hope that we can still bring people out alive.”

Other people with an Air Force tie are also hoping that they too will bring people out alive.

Airman 1st Class Francis Perillo, from the 106th Air Rescue Wing at Francis S. Gabreski Airport, N.Y., is here to help as well. As part of the New York City Emergency Response Team, Perillo is spending his off-duty time combing through the rubble for survivors.



Photo by Capt. Jim Fabio

Tech. Sgt. Nick Marchisello, an Air Force Reservist and New Jersey firefighter, awaits the order to enter the rubble of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. Marchisello is a member of the 514th Civil Engineering Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.

“I felt something inside me,” said Perillo, a native of Bayshore, N.Y. “I just had to do something. It’s horrifying. I’ve broken down in tears. I’ve learned just how precious life is. I’m here looking for people and to do what I can.”

A feeling of patriotism pervades the entire atmosphere around the remains of the once glorious buildings in downtown

Manhattan. American flags are everywhere — on hats, on taxis, on radio antennas, even on makeshift flagpoles in the destruction zone. Messages of encouragement can be seen everywhere. “God Bless Us”, “America Will Prevail,” and most poignantly, “Rest In Peace to those who died...we will not forget.”

A message from Secretary of Army about terrorism

White lets soldiers know challenges, but said nation will win war on terrorism

My fellow field soldiers all over the Army, from Kosovo to Korea, wherever you may be happening to pull your duty:

As you all know by now, our nation, this department and the United States Army was attacked 11 September.

I want you to know that we have survived that attack. That attack has made us stronger and we are now engaged in what our president has called the first war of the 21st century. We will win that war.

Now the war is not going to won in a single day, or a single raid or a single event. We are engaged in a campaign against a cowardly enemy. And it will take us a while to root him out. But let there be no question about our resolve, our discipline, our professionalism, our tenacity; and in the end, the result of that war.

It started at a point of time dictated by the enemy. It will end in a point of time — as the president has said — of our choosing.

It won't be easy. But few things that are truly worth doing ever are.

This is our challenge: to preserve the freedoms that make America what Abraham Lincoln called the "last best hope on earth." And I can assure that the civilized people in countries of the world have united in support of our cause.

You and I, the American soldier and the veteran, now carry the hopes of the American people on our shoulders.

I know that you will do your duty. I have every confidence in that as does the Secretary (of Defense), the Chief, and the President of the United States.

America expects no less of you and I and we can do no more.

And always know that wherever you are, your nation stands behind you with absolutely solid support.

The Chief, General Shinseki and I, extend our condolences, and ask God's tender mercies on our foreign comrades and their loved ones.

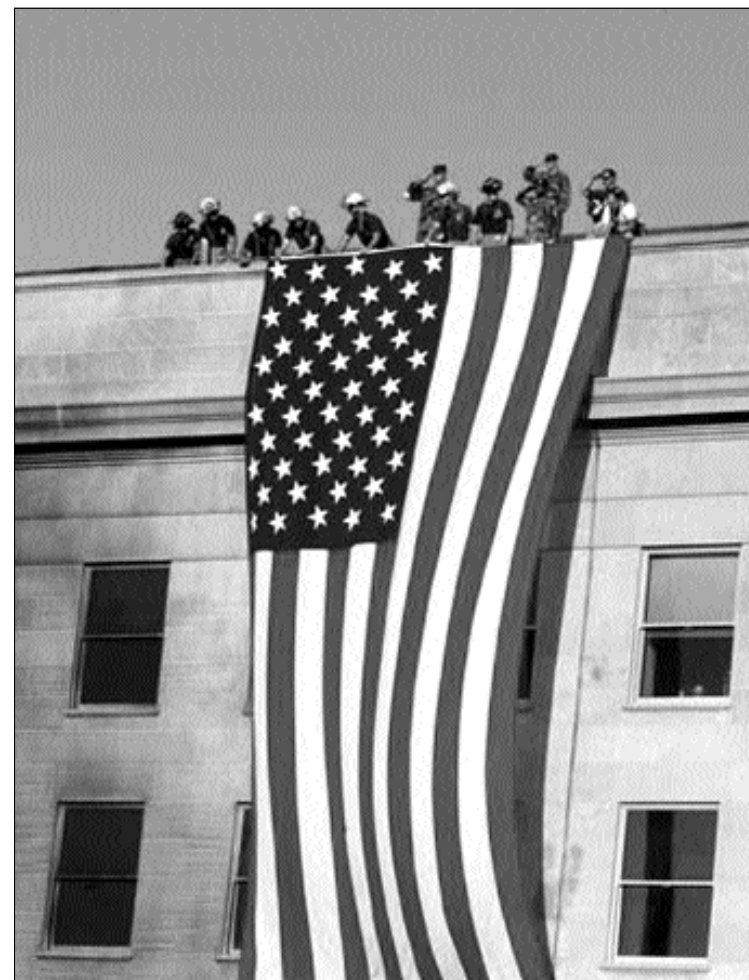
We have 74 people unaccounted for in our headquarters. We will mourn them and we will shed our tears.

They are part of our family. But once that's finished, we will go forward, with anger and with purpose in our hearts, to see this campaign through to the end.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 has already been described as the darkest day in American history. I say to our adversaries, be very, very careful, for you are going to experience the finest hours of the United States Army as we prosecute this campaign against you.

God bless you, God bless the Army. God bless our great nation.

Secretary of the Army
Thomas E. White



Servicemembers and rescue workers hang the American flag over the side of the Pentagon.

Old Guard finds Old Glory while helping in rescue efforts at Pentagon

By Master Sgt. Jon Connor
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Sept. 14, 2001) - Amidst the rubble, lost lives and broken dreams, a soldier from the Army's Old Guard found an American Flag unscathed late Friday morning in the Pentagon.

For Pvt. 1 Justin Malonson, it was a proud moment to be a soldier and American.

"I couldn't be more happier to lend a hand or help out," said the 20-year-old infantryman of 1st Platoon, 1st Battalion, and 3rd U.S. Infantry.

Soldiers from The Old Guard have been tasked to conduct casualty retrieval operations and internal security in the Pentagon among other missions since Sept. 11 after a hijacked American Airlines Boeing 757 slammed into the

Pentagon's west side at 9:38 a.m. shortly after two airliners crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City.

The flag was found under two feet of debris near four dead bodies, Malonson said. The flag was described in "pristine" condition and has since been folded.

Malonson said he was extremely proud to find Old Glory symbolically alive and well among so much destruction.

"It was just God's grace," he said. "We took a hit but America will overcome."

Staff Sgt. Stefan Still, 23, a squad leader within 1st Platoon, said The Old Guard soldiers, known for their ceremonial activities, have been performing quite well considering the conditions they now find themselves in.

"I'm very impressed with them," said Still. "They're looking at stuff that no one their age should ever have to look at."

"The routine is gone," Still said. "The Old Guard has shifted all its missions to this."

Casualty retrieval will continue indefinitely, Still said. "There's no way of knowing when that mission will be over," adding that "it's going to take awhile."

"It's just amazing and beyond comprehension that somebody could do something

like this," the five-year veteran said of the terrorist attacks.

Two other soldiers staying busy at the Pentagon's search and recovery site were Spc. Suzanne Jenkins and Sgt. Latashia Kuhl who work in the field of behavioral science.

Their mission is to mentally prepare The Old Guard soldiers before going in to conduct casualty retrieval and bring mental stability back to them upon exiting it.

Jenkins and Kuhl are part of four-to-five person teams who try to bring normalcy to a nightmarish situation.

"They want to do their job," said Kuhl of Fort Belvoir, Va.'s Dewitt Community Hospital. "Most importantly, we try to feed them information to prepare them mentally."

Kuhl said it was important to help the soldiers maintain a "positive attitude" considering the adverse conditions Old Guard soldiers must endure.

Jenkins, who normally works at nearby Fort Myer's Andrew Rader U.S. Army Health Clinic, described retrieval conditions as hot, dark, and wet.

"We gather information and spread it to the (casualty retrieval) soldiers," Jenkins said. The goal is to "make them feel normal" again, she said.

While the gruesome mission of recovering bodies must go on, one Old Guard senior noncommissioned officer said the soldiers just want to keep searching.

"The guys don't feel like they're doing enough," said Sgt. 1st Class Alan Marinoff, platoon sergeant of 3rd Platoon, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment.

Like many of his soldiers, Marinoff has not slept at home since the attack, but instead is staying in barracks at Fort Myer.

Some of the other missions The Old Guard performs, like internal security within the Pentagon, may not seem exciting, but is definitely needed, he said.

"It ain't sexy, but it's important," Marinoff said. "I've never been more proud of soldiers. These guys are incredible."

As anyone who has watched television coverage of the retrieval operations at the Pentagon knows, it is not an around-the-clock type of mission. It is one that is characterized of intense searching and then followed by periods of waiting as safety officials assess the structural situation.

"The worst part is waiting for something to do," Marinoff said.

Orphans enjoy fun, food, games during visits to base



Photo by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn

Left: What better a way to spend a hot summer day on Soto Cano than getting wet and wild like this on a Slip n' Slide water toy. AFFOR members sponsored a visit from local-area orphans Aug. 23. While they were here, the children were treated with lunch and a day full of activities.

Below center: 2nd. Lt. Clint Magana, nurse, demonstrates how to open wide as he inserts a fluoride treatment to a local orphan.

Below Right: Col. Daniel Davidson, flight surgeon helps a young orphan break open a candy-filled pinata.

MEDEL hosted a visit of more than 100 children to Soto Cano for Honduran Children's Day Sept. 10.

Movies, games, sports and a pinata party are just a few of the fun activities the unit had for the children.

They also used the visit as an opportunity to improve the children's health by supplying dental treatments and giving haircuts.

Other Children's Day support was given to thousands of children by the Joint Task Force-Bravo Civil Affairs and the Honduran Charity Organization.

The charity organization purchased 89 pinatas and 880 pounds of candy for civil affairs to hand out to 22 schools, two churches and three orphanages in three local-area communities.



Photo by Martin Chahin



Photo by Martin Chahin

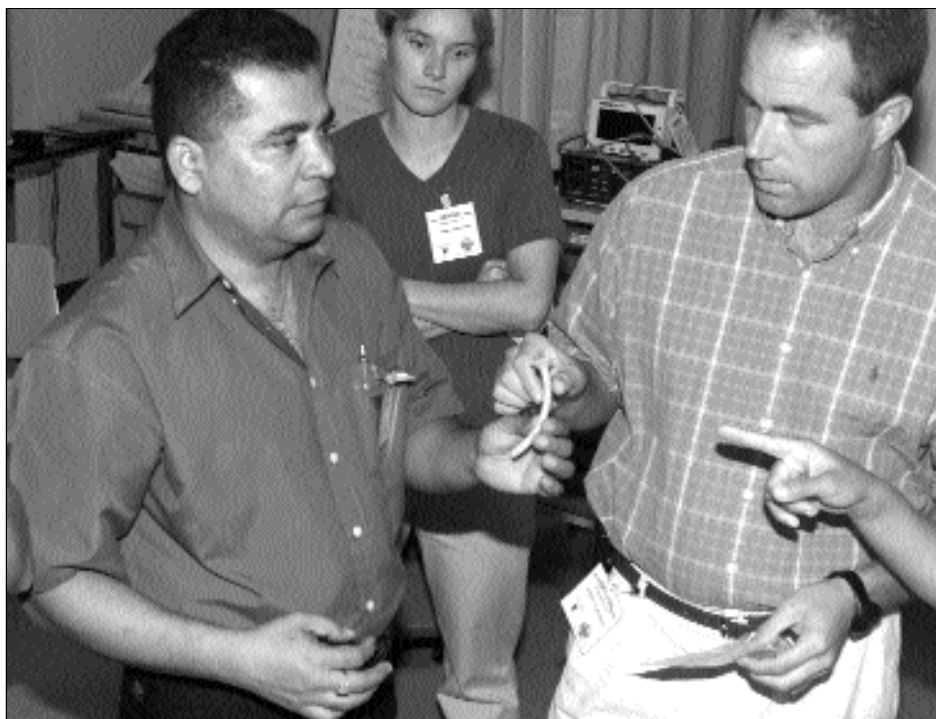


Photo by Martin Chahin

Anesthesia Nurse Maj Jeffrey Schultz, right, is demonstrating how to use a nasopharyngeal airway with the help of 1st. Lt. Anne Hartmann, middle, RN, to Honduran nurse Wilfredo Romil, left, during a nursing conference Sept. 5 hosted by MEDEL. Honduran nurses from Comayagua, La Paz and Tegucigalpa were invited to the seminar, which focused on basic nursing skills. During the seminar, the two groups compared and contrasted the way American and Hondurans practice the nursing profession while sharing insight on how they take care of patients at the Honduran facilities.

"This benefits us by helping prepare us for MEDRETEs; it helps us on how to take care of the Hondurans who come on base along with lets us know what kind of medical care a servicemember is going to be getting if they need medical care here," said Capt. Emily Wassum, register nurse. This was the first nursing seminar sponsored by MEDEL.

Keep away from stray animals

By Sgt. James Barclay
Preventive Medicine

Rabies, if left untreated, will be fatal. Every year there are over one million reports of animals biting humans in the United States. Many cases involve serious injury and a few even end in fatalities. Animal bites are very common in Honduras as well. They are much more serious because rabies is much more prevalent in this country. An average of five cases of human rabies is reported each year in Honduras. Taking a few precautions can help to keep you from becoming a bite victim.

The simplest and easiest prevention is avoidance. Do not go near stray dogs and cats. Injured and sick animals are far more dangerous. They are also the most likely carriers of rabies. Stray animals only stray where they can find food. Do not feed stray animals. Feeding strays only makes the problem worse. Trash should be placed in the appropriate receptacles and the doors to the trash sites should be securely shut behind you.

If someone happens to be bitten, take note of the animal's appearance - size, color, markings. Do not attempt to capture the animal unless it is safe to do so. Someone else becoming another bite victim will not help. If possible, leave someone to watch the animal and track its movement and contact Dyncorp.

Dyncorp has a stray animal removal program. Call the trouble desk to report stray animals. Notify Veterinary Services at ext. 4198, of any sick or injured animals. After duty hours call the EMT desk at ext. 4190 Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water for at least five minutes. Report to the emergency room for medical treatment and have a search initiated for the animal.

All biting animals must be placed under quarantine for rabies observation. Any cat or dog that is in the transmissible stage will show symptoms of rabies within 10 days. If the animal cannot be located, then the Rabies Advisory Board at Joint Task Force-Bravo's Medical Element may elect to start the patient on immunizations against the rabies virus. All dogs and cats maintained here on Soto Cano must be vaccinated against the rabies virus on an annual basis. And any animals returning to the United States must have a health certificate.

The best prevention against animal bites is to stay away from stray animals and any animal not known to you.

MWR Trivia Contest

ENTRY RULES:

- Only active duty military are eligible to participate.
- Only one entry per person per contest.
- Completed entries may be given to the MWR Manager, H-401, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or e-mailed to Robin R. Gonzalez.
- Entries must be received by: Thursday, Sept. 27
- Completed entries will be verified for accuracy by an independent judging panel (PAO, MWR and one volunteer).
- If none of the entries are completed, then entries with the most correct answers will be judged.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Completed and correct entries will be maintained in the MWR safe until the Commander's Radio Talk Show.
- A disinterested individual will draw two correct entries and announce the winners.
- Prizes will be awarded the two winners and may be picked up at the MWR Manager's office.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS (answers may be found in the library):

- Where is Haifa: _____
- Where is Bucharest: _____
- Where is Stonehenge: _____
- Where is Sarajevo: _____
- Where is Mt St Helens: _____
- Where is the Taj Mahal: _____
- Where is Angkor Wat: _____
- Where is Coney Island: _____
- Where is the Louvre: _____
- Where is Topeka: _____
- Where is Virginia City: _____
- Where is Sugar Loaf Mountain: _____
- Where is Zamboanga: _____
- Where is Reykjavik: _____
- Where is Moose Jaw: _____
- Where is the Ross Sea: _____
- Where is Nome: _____
- Where is Caracas: _____
- Where is Dallas: _____
- Where is Choluteca: _____
- Where is the Sistine Chapel: _____
- Where are the 3 service academies located: _____

NAME: _____ UNIT _____

DUTY PHONE _____ VERIFIED BY: _____

DATE: _____

Chapel Family Support Group prepares spouses for U.S. life



Photo by SPC. Sarah Maxwell

SPC. Michael Monaghan, chaplain's assistant helps a Honduran spouse, Miriam Rodriguez, with the English program at the base education center.

By SPC. Sarah Maxwell
Iguana Editor

Servicemembers who marry Hondurans while being stationed at Soto Cano now have an opportunity to better prepare their spouses for their new lives in the United States.

The base chapel has started the Family Support Group, which is designed to help Hondurans learn the American culture along with what they will encounter being a military spouse.

Meeting twice a week at the chapel, spouses and some couples are given classes such as how to use the education center to learn English and how to read an leave and earnings statement.

They also have guest speakers come in to talk to the spouses.

"We're trying to give them as much information so we can make this transition easier for them," said Chaplain

(Capt.) Earl Vanderhoff, who is in charge of the program.

For couples like Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Supulveda and his Honduran wife Norma, this program is very appreciated.

"I come to the chapel to learn because I'm going to a country I don't know anything about," said Norma, through her husband's translation. "I want to learn as much as possible."

"I'm nervous because I'm going to a country that speaks English and I don't speak it. I want to take English classes as soon as possible and find friends that will help me out as soon as possible," Norma added.

Samuel is trying to help his wife be self-sufficient in the states because as a soldier's spouse she will undoubtedly have to take care of the household when her husband needs to leave.

He said everyone with a Honduran spouse can also benefit from this program.

Seatbelt safety may make difference between life or death in an accident

By Tech. Sgt. Troy Wright
Fire Department

Many states now have laws requiring drivers and passengers alike to wear seatbelts or pay a stiff price.

Sadly, many people still resist using seat belts and pay an even stiffer price - their lives. If you're still unconvinced that seat belts can mean the difference between life and death in an auto accident, take a moment to consider the following information.

The Excuses

- 1) "I can't move with those belts on. They're so uncomfortable!"
- 2) "It's better to be thrown out of the car than be trapped in by a seatbelt."
- 3) "I only drive around town; how can I get hurt going 25 miles per hour?"
- 4) "I'm a good driver. I've never had an accident."

The Answers

1) The fact is newer seatbelt design allows for total freedom of motion while driving. The latching device that secures the belt only goes into effect when the car jolts abruptly, as in an accident.

2) People who are thrown from cars are 25 times more likely to be killed than if they had been held se-

curely in their seats. Further, in the unlikely event your car catches fire or is submerged, seatbelts can keep you from getting "knocked out" and greatly improve your chances of escape.

3) The majority of all car accidents occur within 25 miles of home, and 80 percent of all serious injuries and fatalities occur in cars going 40 miles per hour or slower.

4) You may be a good driver, but there are situations beyond your control such as weather and road conditions (not to mention other drivers) that can affect your safety. Drive preventively and use your seatbelt.

Safe and Secure

When all is said and done, it pays to remember that seatbelts were designed with your safety and security in mind. Seatbelts, like safety seats for children, can make a life and death difference if you or your loved ones are involved in an automobile accident. Use your seatbelt. The life you save may be your own.



BRIEFS

AKO Accounts

Every soldier, reservist and Army civilian will be required to have an Army Knowledge Online account by Oct. 1. This requirement was spelled out in a memorandum signed Aug. 8 by Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

The Army News Service reports that in the future, soldiers will no longer have to send away for copies of their personnel and financial records. They will be able to access this information through an Army Knowledge Online account. Eventually, they will also be able to view and update their personnel data on the Web. All Army Knowledge Online users will be given an e-mail account that they can use for the rest of their career and even after retirement. The e-mail address will stay the same no matter where soldiers and civilians are stationed worldwide. To sign up for an Army Knowledge Online account visit www.us.army.mil and click on the "I'm a New User" link to register.

Free Spanish Classes

Free headstart Spanish elementary classes are available through the Soto Cano Education Center. Stop in to Building H-56 to sign up. Classes start Oct. 2.

First-Level Spanish

6 to 8 p.m. -- Mon., Wed., Fri.
5:30 to 8 p.m. -- Mon., Wed.

First and Second Level

5:30 to 8 p.m. -- Tue., Thur.

Protection From Bugs

Protect yourself from infectious diseases like Dengue Fever by getting your uniform treated with Permethrin, an insecticide, at MEDEL. Call ext. 4190 for more details.

Thrift Savings Plan

Beginning Oct. 9, active duty and reserve component service members can choose to contribute a percentage of their pay to the military's thrift savings program (TSP). The American Forces Press Service reports that the TSP had previously been available only to federal civilian employees. The first enrollment window for persons who entered military service on or before Dec. 8, 2001 is from Oct. 9, 2001, to Jan. 31, 2002. Persons who join the uniformed services after Dec. 8, 2001 will have 60 days after entering service to enroll in the TSP. Military members can enroll in TSP by completing a TSP election form and submitting it through their local service branch finance office. Service members can download enrollment forms and obtain other information from the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov.

Guatamalan, American Airborne team up for first combined jump

For the first time in history, Joint Task Force-Bravo Army Airborne members teamed up with Guatemalan "Paracaidista" Airborne soldiers for a combined air training and jump exercise in San Jose, Guatemala Sept. 14 and 15.

The exercise's intentions were to bring the two Allied forces together in a combined training environment and improve the esprit-de-corps between the two countries' militaries.

The forces shared similar living accommodations, ate together, trained together and on Saturday's exercise they culminated the training by performing four lifts of static line jumps together.

The closing ceremony highlighted the training opportunity between units and celebrated with the exchange of each army's parachutist wings in a formal pinning ceremony.



Capt. Nadine Gerber gets her first set of Guatemalan jump wings.



Led by JTF-Bravo Commander Michael Okita, the first six-soldier drop waits the final seconds before challenging gravity and going airborne.



Off the ramp of a CH-47 helicopter went six combined airborne jumpers on the way to the landing zone target.



Sgt. Christopher Moore, a parachute rigger with ARFOR, wrestles his wind-filled chute after a successful

landing at the Guatemalan drop zone. Moore was one of 15 Americans to participate in the combined jump.

Photos by Master Sgt. Jeff Bohn